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ACTION NEA-11INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PA-01 SMS-01 SS-15
INR-10 INRE-00 SSO-00 /051 W
-----070953 161717Z /44O R 161507Z FEB 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2219
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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FOR NEA/HORNBLOW AND PA

E.O. 12065: GDS 2-16-85 (FLATIN, BRUCE A.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AF
SUBJECT: (U) DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS: PRESS COVERAGE

REF: (A) STATE 39056; (B) STATE 39022; (C) KABUL 1098

1. (U) THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN PROVIDING FACILITATIVE SERVICES AND PRESS BRIEFINGS FOR PRESS. HAVE SEEN THUS FAR CBS, AP, "WASHINGTON POST," REUTERS, "FINANCIAL TIMES," AND "TIME" REPRESENTATIVES IN KABUL.

2. (C) THE EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION TO RELEASING SANITIZED VERSION OF REPTEL (C). EMBOFFS HERE HAVE ALREADY GIVEN SOME NARRATIVE DETAILS FROM REPTEL C TO PRESS REPS ON BACKGROUND HERE, BUT HAVE DECLINED THUS FAR TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT EMBASSY OFFICERS WITNESSED ABOUT THE FATE OF THE TERRORISTS. (WE DID REVEAL, HOWEVER, THAT WE SAW THE FOUR DEAD MEN ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 14.) IN VIEW OF THAT FACT THAT THE DRA HAS STATED THAT ALL FOUR WERE KILLED AT THE SECOND SHOOTOUT, WE WOULD LIKE TO AVOID PUBLIC CONTRADICTION OF THE DRA UNTIL WE HAVE DELIVERED THE ACTING SECRETARY'S PROTEST NOTE. (THE CHARGE HAD ASKED FOR AN
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APPOINTMENT WITH AMIN FOR FEBRUARY 17, BUT WAS TOLD HE WOULD NOT

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BE AVAILABLE UNTIL FEBRUARY 19. THE CHARGE WILL SEE DEPUTY MINISTER DOST ON FEBRUARY 17 WITH THE PROGST NOTE, AND WILL SEE AMIN ON FEBRUARY 19.) WE ALSO HAVE DECLINED TO SPECULATE ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ADVICE BEING PASSED TO THE AFGHAN POLICE BY THE SOVIET ADVISORS. ADDITIONALLY, WE MERELY RELATED THE FIRST PART OF FLATIN'S CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR THROUGH THE DOOR OF ROOM 117 (PARAGRAPHS 16-19 CONCERNING THE AMBASSADOR'S CONDITION.) WE WOULD SUGGEST NOT ADDING THE REMAINDER OF THAT EXCHANGE AT THIS TIME.
AMSTUTZ

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